

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Kirk, J.J. 1991. *Batrachoseps wrighti*.

***Batrachoseps wrighti* (Bishop)  
Oregon Slender Salamander**

*Plethopsis wrighti* Bishop 1937:93. Type locality, "woods bordering Mt. Hood highway 8.7 miles southeast of Sandy, Clackamas County, Oregon". Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 102445, an adult male, collected June 15, 1936 by Sherman C. Bishop, Margart R. Wright, and Stanley G. Jewett (not examined by author).

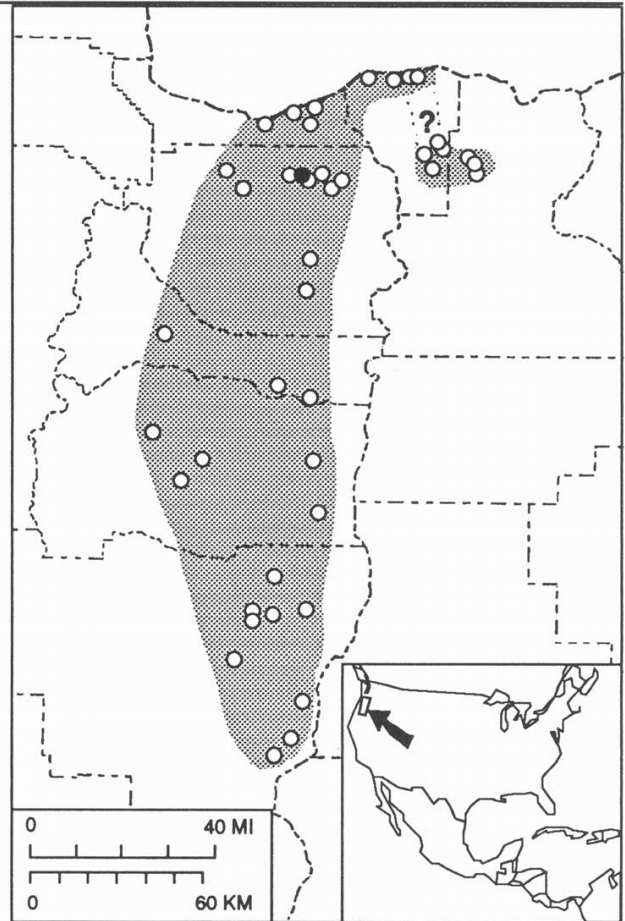
*Batrachoseps wrighti*: Stebbins and Lowe, 1949:116.

• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition and Diagnosis.** *Batrachoseps wrighti* is a small (usually < 50 mm SVL), generalized form geographically separated from other member of its genus. Like other species of *Batrachoseps*, it has only four toes on its hind feet and a large fontanelle between frontals and parietals (Hilton, 1945a, 1945b; Stebbins and Lowe, 1949). *Batrachoseps wrighti* has a distinctive dark or black venter marked with numerous large patches of guanophores, 16 or 17 costal grooves between the limb insertions, and 4.5 to 7.5 intercostal folds between adpressed limbs. Premaxillae are separate. Prefrontals can be found only in large individuals (Wake, 1966; Marlow et al., 1979). *Batrachoseps campi* shares the latter two characters with *B. wrighti*, except that prefrontals are large and conspicuous throughout life. Vomerine teeth are arranged as a single row instead of two distinct patches.

• **Descriptions.** Adults were described by Bishop (1937, 1943), Stebbins and Lowe (1949), Stebbins (1951, 1954), Hendrickson (1954), Brame and Murray (1966), and Nussbaum et al. (1983). Stebbins (1949, 1954) described eggs, development, gills, and hatching in the laboratory. Stebbins and Lowe (1949) also described the same eggs.

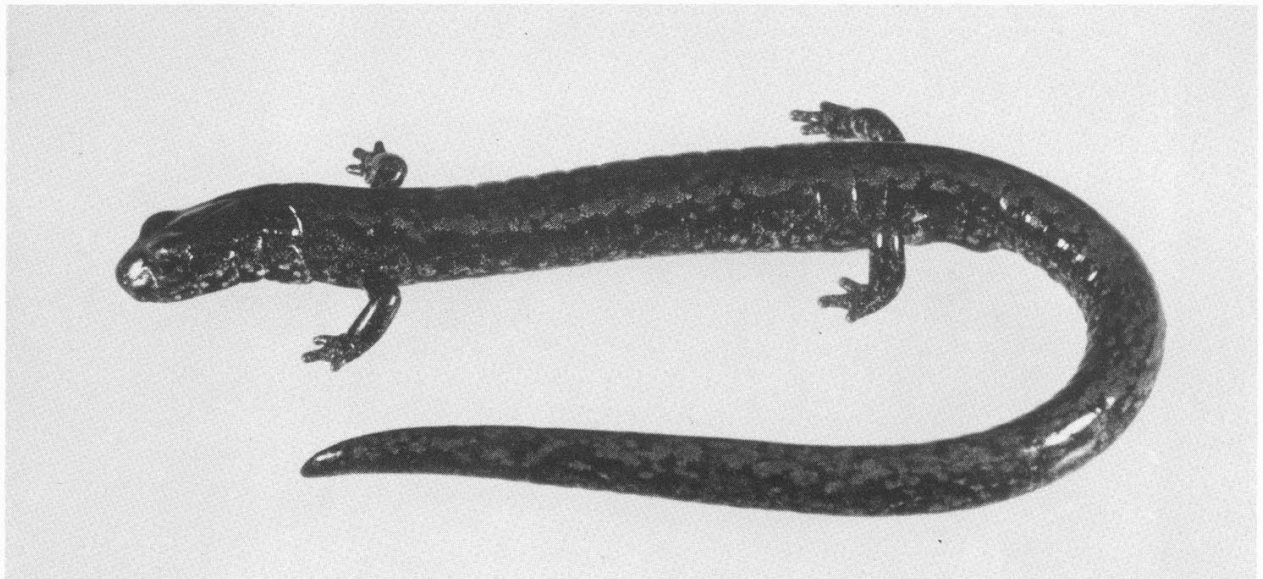
• **Illustrations.** Black and white (B&W) photographs were provided by Bishop (1937, 1943), Freytag (1961), Brame (1964), Brame and Murray (1968), and Nussbaum et al. (1983). Brame (1964) presented a B&W photograph of a gigantic specimen. Behler and King (1979) included a color photograph. Stebbins (1949, 1951) provided drawings of eggs, embryonic stages, and hatching. Line drawings of adults were given by Stebbins and Lowe (1949), Stebbins (1949, 1951, 1954, 1966, 1985). Smith (1978) and Stebbins (1985) provided color paintings. Stebbins and Lowe (1949) illustrated the head, body outline, premaxillae, and hind foot. Ventral coloration



**Map.** Solid circle shows type-locality. Open circles indicate other records.

was illustrated by Bishop (1937, 1943), Stebbins (1951, 1954, 1966, 1985), and Nussbaum et al. (1983). Marlow et al. (1979) illustrated skull characters. Kezer (1964) and Leon (1976) provided B&W photographs of chromosomes. Kezer (1964) also included a B&W photograph of a spermatocyte. Peabody (1959) gave a B&W photograph of trackways.

• **Distribution.** *Batrachoseps wrighti* occurs only in Oregon,



**Figure 1.** *Batrachoseps wrighti* from Hood River County, Oregon. Photograph by author.

where it is known from the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains in Lane, Linn, Marion, Clackamas, and Multnomah counties; from the Columbia River Gorge in Multnomah and Hood River counties; and from seven sites on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains in Hood River and Wasco counties.

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** Bishop (1937) erected a new genus for his new species and compared it to *Plethodon*. Stebbins and Lowe (1949) compared *Plethopsis wrighti* with *Plethodon* and *Batrachoseps* and moved it to the latter genus. Based on morphology and body proportions Brame and Murray (1968) concluded that *B. wrighti* was the most primitive member of the genus and proposed a Miocene divergence of *B. wrighti* from the clade of California species. Marlow et al. (1979) found that *B. wrighti* shares more primitive characteristics with *B. campithan* with other *Batrachoseps*. Hilton (1945a, 1945b, 1949), Wake (1966), and Marlow et al. (1979) discussed osteology. Hilton (1951) described teeth. Genetic information has been presented by Yanev (1978), Yanev and Wake (1981), Nevo et al. (1984), and Shaffer and Breden (1989). Seto et al. (1969) described meiosis. Electrophoretic analyses by Yanev (1978) and Yanev and Wake (1981) indicated a very distant relationship of *B. wrighti* to any species other than *B. campithan*. Hendrickson (1954) and Yanev (1978) presented reviews of evolution and systematic relationships of the genus. Stebbins (1949) described egg laying, development, and hatching. Davis (1952) compared larval gills of *B. pacificus* and *B. wrighti*. Tanner (1953) added observations on a clutch of eggs found in the field. Peabody (1959) discussed locomotion. Brattstrom (1963) discussed thermal requirements. Bishop (1937), Stebbins (1951), Jameson and Storm (1956), Brame (1964), and Nussbaum et al. (1983) presented general notes on natural history and habitat preferences. Jameson and Storm (1956) gave body temperature data. High proportion of red blood cells with nuclei was reported by Stebbins and Lowe (1949) and Villolobos et al. (1988). Chromosomes have been studied by Kezer (1964) and Leon (1976). Brodie (1979) described antipredator strategies used by *B. wrighti*. Graf et al. (1939), Jameson and Storm (1956), Burns (1962), Brame (1964), Kirk (1983), Nussbaum et al. (1983), and Kirk and Forbes (1991) included distributional records. Sever et al. (1990) commented on cloacal anatomy.

• **Etymology.** *Batrachoseps wrighti* was named in honor of Dr. A.H. Wright and Miss M.R. Wright.

• **Comment.** A question exists as to whether recently discovered populations of *B. wrighti* on the eastern slopes of Cascade Mountains (Kirk and Forbes, 1991) are disjunct. *Batrachoseps wrighti* probably reached these sites through the Columbia River Gorge.

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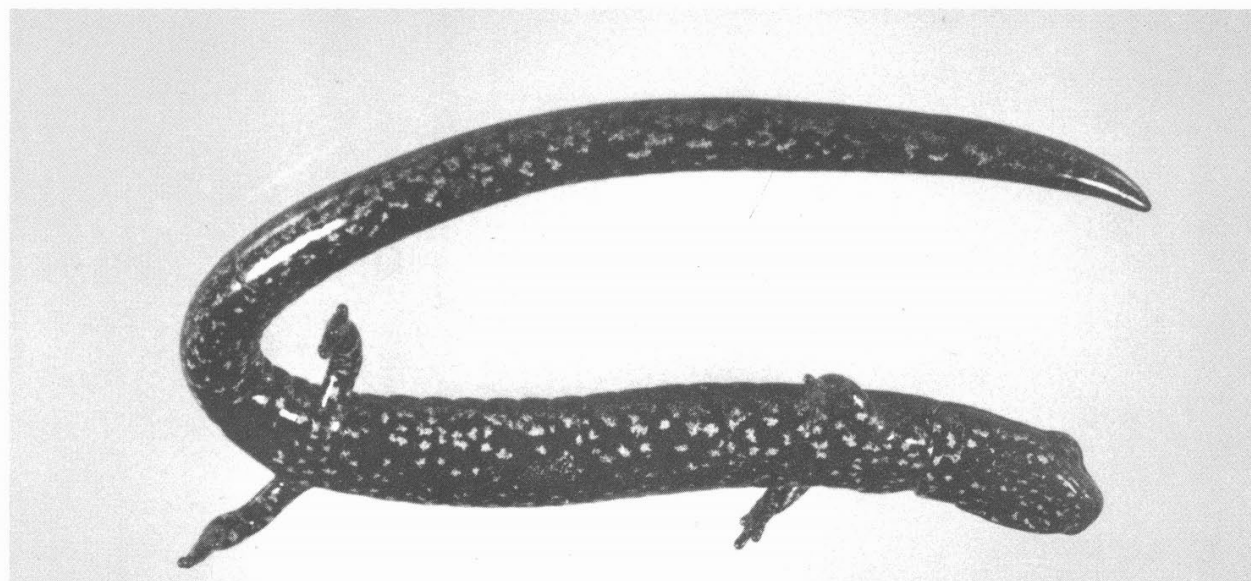


Figure 2. Ventral view of *Batrachoseps wrighti* from Hood River County, Oregon. Photograph by author.



**Figure 3.** *Batrachoseps wrighti* from Lane County, Oregon. Photograph by R. Wayne Van Devender

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